



PRESS RELEASE

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ILLINOIS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Lorenzo Taylor, 26, Rockford, Illinois, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

From April 2004 until March 30, 2007, Taylor conspired with Jerome Hughes, Jennifer Hanthorn, John Dunn, and Jennifer Zweifel to possess and to distribute crack cocaine in Rockford, Janesville, and Beloit. Taylor admitted that at Hughes' direction, he provided crack cocaine to Hanthorn and Dunn in Rockford, which they transported to Wisconsin for distribution.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 19, 2007. Taylor faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charge against Taylor was the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department;

the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, more than 35 individuals have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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